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Washington LABOR MARKET

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Washington State
Employment Security
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Commissioner

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In cooperation with the
Employment and Training
Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Highlights

Off With The Winter Blahs

Washington's economy picked up speed in February. Employment increased at a pace greater than seasonal over the month, and unemployment dipped fractionally below the prior month high. As the grip of winter eased, some outdoor activities which had been constrained by severe weather finally rousted out of hibernation. Construction and services, in particular, heightened with the change of seasons. But a less vibrant economy than a year ago kept a lid on the overall pulse and checked the strong seasonally adjusted advance posted just a month before. Nonetheless, the state continued to skirt the national recession with little more than a slowing in the aggregate growth rate.

Volume 15, Number 3

In the recession of 1981-82, Washington was hit harder and longer than the national average. Moreover, the state led the national downturn in employment terms by as much as six to eight months. The pullout roughly coincided. From peak to trough, statewide seasonally adjusted wage and salary employment dropped by 68,000 over the 21-month period. And then began a rebound which continues, albeit weakened, up until the present time. The fact that Washington, or the Pacific Northwest in general, has not succumbed to the current downdraft is attributed to a combination of favorable events.

How long these factors will continue to insulate the economy is anybody's guess. Much depends on the length and breadth of the national downturn which up until recently was envisioned to be relatively short and shallow. If the national recession does in fact end sometime around mid-year, there is good chance the state could come out relatively unscathed. On the other hand, if the national recession proves longer and deeper than expected, no amount of offset can continue indefinitely to undergird the local economy.

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington's unemployment rate eased in February to 6.7 percent of the labor force from a high of 7.0 percent in January. Movement over the month was encouraging inasmuch as the first two months of the year typically alternate in setting the highs for the year. But weather this February proved milder than usual. At the same time, the comparable national jobless rate inched higher in February from 7.0 percent to 7.2 percent, thereby widening the difference between the state and national averages.

Since the beginning of the year, Washington has shifted from significantly below to significantly above the prior year in terms of monthly jobless totals. The ratcheting upward was certainly expected, given the progressively slowing taking place over the past 12 months on the employment front. Labor markets coming into 1990 remained extremely tight, and fairly typical seasonal patterns simply played off against that backdrop to bring statewide unemployment levels down

to some of the lowest levels seen since the late-1960s. No one expected the pattern to persist for any length of time.

Normal seasonal expansion will drive unemployment lower over the next several months. But a measure of slack in the economy will prevent a return to the very tight labor situation of a year ago. An estimated 86,000 net in-migration for 1991 continues to swell the state's overall population base. And the outlook is for nothing more than normal seasonal job expansion during the second and third quarters before growth resumes beginning in the fourth quarter of this year.

Resident Civilian Labor Force
Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Feb1991 *Preliminary*	Jan 1991 *Revised*	Feb 1990
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,497,500	2,488,200	2,514,000
Employment	2,329,200	2,313,900	2,362,700
Unemployment	168,300	174,300	151,300
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	7.0%	6.0%
National Unemployment Rate	7.2%	7.0%	5.8%

Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.
Source: Employment Security Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics

REBENCHMARKED LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT TABLES

Revised monthly statewide labor force and unemployment data for 1988 through 1990 accompany this edition of the *Washington Labor Market*. The annual rebenchmarking process incorporates updated information on industry employment and adjustments to the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The net effect was a slight downward adjustment from preliminary reporting for 1990, bringing the average jobless rate for the year to 4.9 percent - the lowest since 1968.

By definition, it should be noted that the labor force and total employment estimates for the state are by place of residence and, thus, are not strictly comparable with the nonagricultural wage and salary employment, which is by place of work. Moreover, the total employment in the CLF series includes agricultural workers, self employed, and domestics who are excluded from the wage and salary tabulation. Part-time and seasonal workers are included in both. But, multiple-job holders are counted once for each job from establishment

reporting of wage and salary employment and only once as either employed or unemployed for CLF purposes.

Inputs To The System

Various inputs go into the model estimating the labor force and unemployed. Three primary sources for all states are the Current Population Survey (CPS), the Current Employment Statistics (CES), and the Unemployment Insurance (UI) weekly claims data. The object of combining the series is to provide as full an accounting as possible in measuring the level of employed and unemployed in the economy at any one point in time.

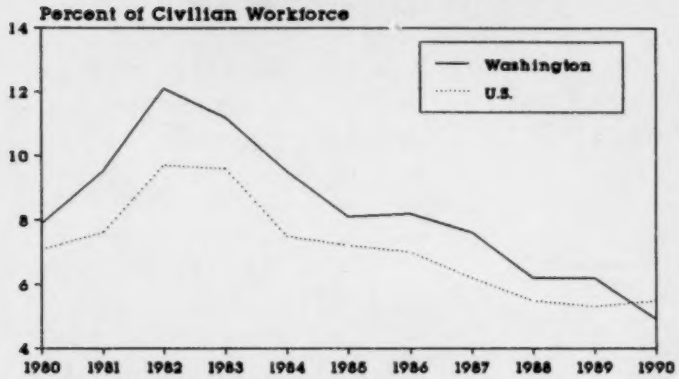
In actual practice, there has been increasing divergence lately between the monthly labor force/total employment estimates and the accompanying wage and salary detail. To be truthful, there were times in the past when the two series departed briefly. But the present period looks to be something more than a statistical aberration. Washington is not alone in this regard; many smaller states are experiencing similar patterns. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, which defined the model, has been appraised of the issue and has taken it under advisement.

Output A Matter of Degree

It appears the Current Population Survey (CPS) data are being given undue weight in the model specification, which for Washington measures a scant 800 households out of a total 1,877,000. Greater reliance is placed on the broader Current Employment Statistics (CES), which monthly measures employment levels at 5,700 establishments across all industries statewide.

In the final analysis, however, the resultant unemployment rates for Washington look reasonable when contrasted against the state's recent past history, the nation as a whole, and other states of the union. Slower nonfarm wage and salary employment growth than a year ago would dictate some heightening in overall unemployment regionally. But better than national performance should peg the state's jobless rate somewhat less than the national average. Both trends are effectively being captured.

Annual Average Unemployment Rates
Washington and U.S., 1980 - 1990



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Washington Employment Security

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Nonagricultural employment increased 4,700 in February to a level of 2,154,400 workers. Gains were basically seasonal but totalled roughly half the average January-to-February change posted in the previous five years. A pickup in construction (+1,400) and services (+3,300) from seasonal lows a month before sparked the upturn. At the same time, beginning of the spring term boosted public education payrolls by 4,400. Heavy construction and special trades contractors moved forward as milder weather permitted some outdoor activities to proceed. A further add-on to the building trades were emergency repairs to roads and dikes coming out of three months of alternating flooding and freezing which had hit the state hard beginning in late-November.

Offsetting Entries In Trade And Services

Trade and services painted a palette of give and take in February. Amusement and recreation (+1,000) inched higher seasonally, as did staffing at private colleges and universities (+900). Also on the upswing were engineering and management services (+500), social services (+400), and health services (+200), particularly nursing facilities. The pattern looked fairly typical for the month.

On the downside came sizable layoffs in retail trade (-6,700). Part of the reduction was keyed to post-holiday sales layoffs which take place regularly at this time of year.

But only about half could logically be credited to this recurring event. The rest represented a concerted drive on the part of retailing to downsize in order to meet more realistic levels of market demand. Shorter hours, smaller staff, and less outlets are becoming ***de rigueur***, driven by pressing concern for the bottom line. Out of this should come better alignment and more viable individual operations.

Buildup of retail trade in recent years has been nothing short of phenomenal. Payrolls heightened by a quarter or 77,000 workers on average over the past five years with most of that growth coming from specialty shops, food stores, and eating and drinking establishments. Statewide population, in the interim, has risen an estimated 9 percent and real personal income by 20 percent. Even assuming fairly hefty gains in per capita sales, a period of shakeout would not be unexpected given the current more relaxed tone of the area economy.

Manufacturing Holds Its Own

Meanwhile, manufacturing showed little change. For the most part, payrolls held level in February with only minor shifts in selected industries. Aerospace was flat at 116,000, but other transportation equipment manufacturing dropped by 400. Both shipbuilding and land transportation equipment shared the pullback owing to weaker domestic markets than a year ago. The counter was a 500 seasonal uplift in food processing as repacking of fruits and vegetables got underway.

Likewise, forest products held firm at 55,600. A loss of 100 in lumber and wood products was balanced over the month by a 100 gain in paper production. Over the year, the industry was down 1,500 workers or 3 percent. Lower national housing starts has effectively crimped lumber production of the Douglas Fir Region by 20 percent from a year ago through the first quarter based upon data from the Western Wood Products Association. Temporary shutdowns and extended leaves have become commonplace in an effort to control inventories. Determined efforts of the Federal Reserve to drive down interest rates since the beginning of the year, however, should act materially over the next several

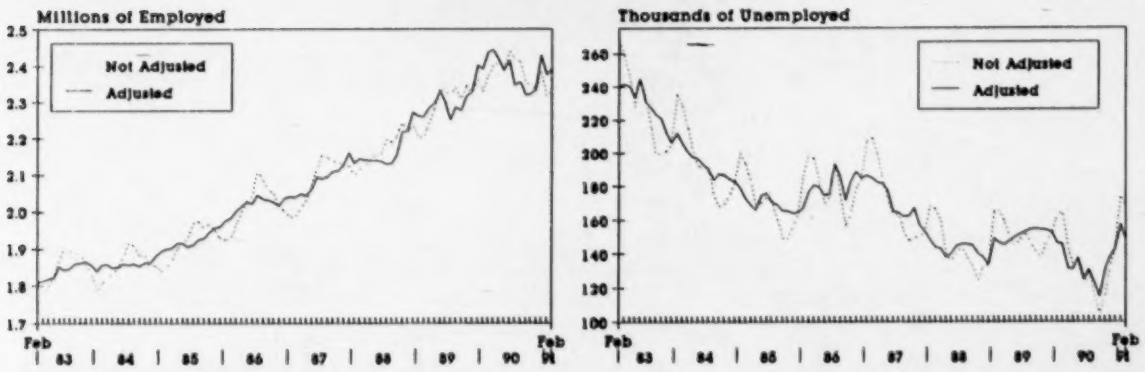
months to lift housing out of the doldrums and move production higher.

Over-The-Year Remains Respectable

Over the past 12 months, Washington's nonagricultural employment base has risen by 71,100 or 3.4 percent. The national average, in contrast, is now tracking less than a year before by a slight 0.3 percent. Construction (+11,400) and trade (+12,000) have both added significantly to payroll levels from a year ago. But growth in services (+35,100) continues to lead the economy. Services make up a quarter of the state's nonfarm economy but currently is accounting for roughly half of the state's total job growth. And half of that increase is further concentrated in business and health services (+16,300).

Meanwhile, manufacturing is in deficit by 5,100 workers. Employment in the primary goods-producing sector shifted from above to below the prior-year totals beginning in October after swelling at a 5 percent compound annual growth rate from 1987 to 1990. Behind the numbers stand a levelling in aerospace and a falloff in lumber and wood products. Two isolated plant closures from corporate restructuring pulled down payrolls in instruments and primary metals. The rest of manufacturing has basically held its own.

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment
February 1983 - February 1991



Source: Employment Security Department

AREA TRENDS

Urban Centers Set The Tone

Washington's unemployment rate is currently moving in tandem with that of the state's nine major metropolitan areas. Joblessness in the urban centers dropped 0.2 percentage points on average in February to 6.0 percent of the workforce from a high of 6.2 a month before. The average for the same month a year ago registered a scant 5.3 percent. All areas, with the single exception of Vancouver, showed some uptick from the prior-year in the latest reading. Slower economic growth has impacted a broad spectrum of the economy cutting across industries and areas in fairly uniform fashion. Unemployment in Seattle-Everett has moved from 3.9 percent to 4.8 percent; Tacoma, from 5.4 percent to 6.9 percent; and Spokane, 6.6 percent to 7.2 percent over the past 12 months.

Balance of State Affected By The Weather

Improved weather acted to drive down unemployment throughout most of the balance of the state in February. Rates remained at double-digits throughout both the agricultural and timber-dependent economies. However, the level of joblessness eased from 12.2 percent to 11.0 percent in the logging and lumber areas and from 10.9 percent to 10.3 percent on average in eastern Washington. Prior-year levels stood at 11.2 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas
State of Washington
(percent of the civilian labor force)

Areas	Feb 1991	Jan 1991	Feb 1990
Washington State Total	6.7	7.0	6.0
Metropolitan Areas	6.0	6.2	5.3
Log & Lumber Areas	11.0	12.2	11.2
All Western WA Areas	5.8	6.0	5.1
All Eastern WA Areas	10.3	10.9	9.4

Source: Employment Security Department

Prepared by Dennis Fusco, Chief Economist

SPECIAL INTEREST ITEM

Pacific Northwest Grads: What, Me Worry?

When the national press and media recently focused on job prospects for the Class of 1991, the news was not all that good. Soon-to-be graduates set out promisingly in the midst of an economic expansion but found themselves seeking employment in a recessionary environment. Indeed, that's the national picture, focused principally on the recession-plagued Northeast and Midwest. But what about the prospects here at home?

To answer that question we undertook a telephone survey of job placement directors at public and private colleges across the state early in the new year. By that time, most on-campus interview schedules had been finalized. All four-year colleges and universities in Washington were surveyed, and the community colleges were included on a regionally-representative basis. While admittedly non-scientific, the results found employment prospects for Washington's Class of 1991 ***far more favorable*** than elsewhere in the nation. Moreover, job prospects appeared to be largely comparable with those of recent past graduating classes.

Recruiters Still Coming

From Eastern- to Central- to Western Washington University, placement officers reported that on-campus visits by recruiters would match or exceed levels posted last year. The number of job listings and internships was also running at or above last year. Washington State University reported pretty much the same story, as did Pacific Lutheran and the University of Puget Sound. Smaller private institutions, such as Gonzaga and Whitman, experienced some cooling off, but nothing close to that seen nationally. Staff attributed the cancellations to a "wait and see" attitude on the part of employers rather than refusal to hire. Most employers, they said, had openings to fill and would probably be lining something up later in the year.

The view at the University of Washington was somewhat different. However, there has been ***no net decline*** in the number of firms participating. While the UW witnessed a 5 to 10 percent increase in normal on-campus recruitment cancel-

lations this year, most were national firms and openings were quickly filled by regional firms waiting for space.

Community colleges were surveyed in several regions of the state and the results were generally uniform: job placement has been consistent with recent past years. The same was true generally for vocational-technical schools.

Blame It On A Different Environment

So why do job prospects for Washington's Class of 1991 remain promising while those elsewhere across the nation wane? Much has to do with the fact that Washington's economy has not succumbed to the recessionary pressures seen elsewhere. Washington's colleges and universities (with the exception of the University of Washington) generally have a regional focus and their on-campus recruiting lineups tend to reflect that emphasis.

For what it's worth, the bleak picture painted by national press has had a beneficial impact on local applicants. Placement officers report that students, anticipating a tight labor market, are generally better prepared and more polished than their predecessors. They are also more willing to accept job opportunities outside the region such as in California or in the Southwest - something "unthinkable" a year or two ago. Those with less marketable degrees, moreover, are generally choosing to go directly on to graduate school.

Special Survey Conducted by
Gary Kamimura, Economic Analyst

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Feb 1991 (Prel)	Jan 1991 (Rev)	Feb 1990 (Rev)	Jan 1990 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Jan 1991 to Feb 1991	Numeric Change: Feb 1990 to Feb 1991
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	2,154.4	2,149.7	2,083.3	2,072.4	4.7	71.1
Manufacturing	359.6	360.0	364.7	365.8	-0.4	-5.1
Durable Goods	254.3	255.3	261.4	262.4	-1.0	-7.1
Lumber & Wood Products	37.8	37.9	39.2	39.3	-0.1	-1.4
Logging	9.4	9.3	8.9	9.2	0.1	0.5
Sawmills & Plywood	24.7	24.9	26.9	26.8	-0.2	-2.2
Furniture & Fixtures	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	0.0	-0.1
Stone, Clay, & Glass	7.4	7.2	7.0	7.1	0.2	0.4
Primary Metals	12.5	12.6	13.0	12.8	-0.1	-0.5
Aluminum	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	0.0	0.1
Fabricated Metals	12.1	12.3	11.8	11.9	-0.2	0.3
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	20.1	20.2	20.2	20.3	-0.1	-0.1
Computer & Office Equipment	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.1
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	11.7	11.7	11.3	11.3	0.0	0.4
Transportation Equipment	128.7	129.1	133.8	134.6	-0.4	-5.1
Aircraft & Parts	116.0	116.0	118.1	118.7	0.0	-2.1
Instruments & Related	13.6	13.6	15.1	15.1	0.0	-1.5
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.0	-0.3	0.5
Nondurable Goods	105.3	104.7	103.3	103.4	0.6	2.0
Food & Kindred Products	34.7	34.2	34.5	34.6	0.5	0.2
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	10.4	10.0	11.1	11.0	0.4	-0.7
Textiles, Apparel, & Leather	8.0	8.0	7.4	7.5	0.0	0.6
Paper & Allied Products	17.8	17.7[2]	17.9	18.0	0.1	-0.1
Printing & Publishing	22.5	22.5	22.1	22.0	0.0	0.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	13.5	13.4	13.0	12.9	0.1	0.5
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	8.8	8.9	8.4	8.4	-0.1	0.4
Mining & Quarrying	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.4	-0.1	0.0
Construction	113.5	112.1	102.1	103.2	1.4	11.4
General Building Contractors	33.4	33.7	31.1	31.5	-0.3	2.3
Heavy Construction, ex. Buildings	14.4	13.4	12.9	13.1	1.0	1.5
Special Trade Contractors	65.7	65.1	58.1	58.6	0.6	7.6
Transportation, Comms., & Utilities	114.0	114.2	109.9	110.4	-0.2	4.1
Transportation	79.1	79.3	74.8	75.4	-0.2	4.3
Trucking & Warehousing	32.3	32.2	29.3	29.8	0.1	3.0
Water Transportation	9.4	9.6	8.7	8.9	-0.2	0.7
Transportation by Air	15.3	15.6	15.3	15.2	-0.3	0.0
Communications	25.1	25.1	25.8	25.8	0.0	-0.7
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9.8	9.8	9.3	9.2	0.0	0.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	510.2	516.4	498.2	502.3	-6.2	12.0
Wholesale Trade	128.0	127.5	123.8	123.1	0.5	4.2
Retail Trade	382.2	388.9	374.4	379.2	-6.7	7.8
General Merchandise	36.2	39.2	38.5	40.7	-3.0	-2.3
Food Stores	64.7	65.4	60.8	60.8	-0.7	3.9
Eating & Drinking	141.1	140.7	135.0	135.5	0.4	6.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	117.3	116.8	114.5	113.9	0.5	2.8
Finance	50.9	50.9	51.3	51.3	0.0	-0.4
Services	525.1	521.8	490.0	484.0	3.3	35.1
Hotels & Lodging	25.1	25.1	23.0	23.0	0.0	2.1
Personal Services	22.1	21.9	21.5	21.0	0.2	0.6
Business Services	86.6	86.4	79.5	79.1	0.2	7.1
Health Services	153.2	153.0	144.0	143.7	0.2	9.2
Educational Services	24.8	23.7	23.6	22.3	1.1	1.2
Social Services	36.0	35.6	32.6	32.3	0.4	3.4
Engineering & Management Services	47.9	47.4	44.5	43.4	0.5	3.4
Government	411.2	404.8	400.4	389.4	6.4	10.8
Federal	70.6	70.7	72.8	72.8	-0.1	-2.2
State	121.7	119.2	116.1	113.4	2.5	5.6
State Education	64.4	62.6	62.3	60.2	1.8	2.1
Local	218.9	214.9	211.5	203.2	4.0	7.4
Local Education	120.4	117.8	113.1	110.9	2.6	7.3
Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.0

[1] Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

[2] Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic
Analysis

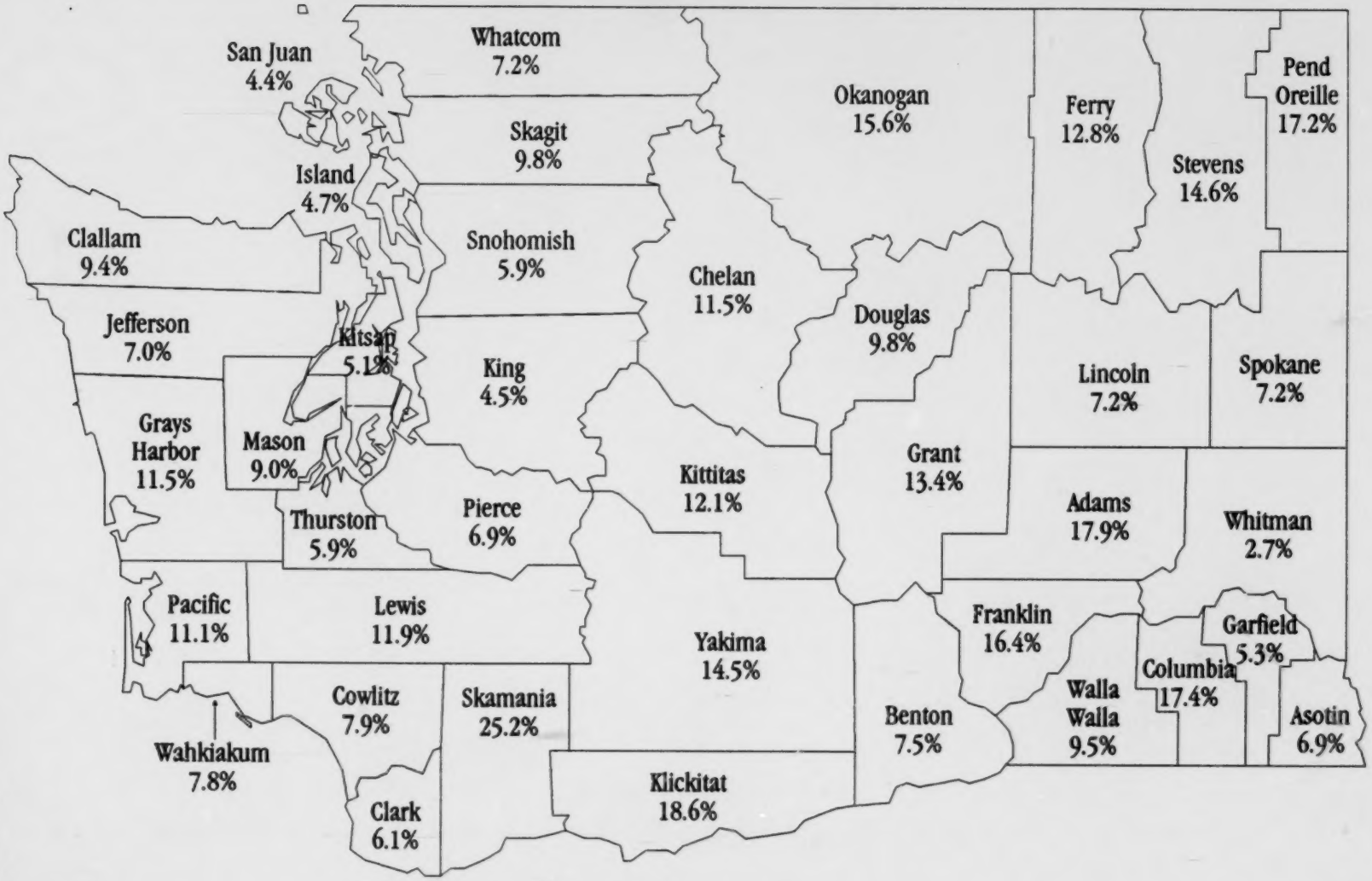
Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 4/3/91
Benchmark: 1990

	February 1991 Preliminary†				January 1991 Revised†				February 1990 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate
Washington State Total	2,497,500	2,329,200	168,300	6.7	2,488,200	2,313,900	174,300	7.0	2,514,000	2,362,700	151,300	6.0
Bellingham MSA	69,100	64,100	5,000	7.2	69,800	63,900	5,900	8.5	67,100	62,900	4,200	6.3
Bremerton MSA	83,700	79,400	4,300	5.1	83,500	79,000	4,500	5.4	84,000	80,200	3,800	4.5
Olympia MSA	84,900	79,900	5,000	5.9	84,100	78,700	5,400	6.4	85,500	80,300	5,200	6.1
Seattle PMSA	1,130,600	1,076,800	53,800	4.8	1,121,800	1,068,800	53,000	4.7	1,143,700	1,099,000	44,700	3.9
King County‡	890,500	850,800	39,700	4.5	883,000	844,400	38,600	4.4	901,500	868,300	33,200	3.7
Snohomish County‡	240,100	226,000	14,100	5.9	238,700	224,300	14,400	6.0	242,200	230,700	11,500	4.7
Spokane MSA	173,300	160,800	12,500	7.2	171,700	159,300	12,400	7.2	173,200	161,800	11,400	6.6
Tacoma PMSA	252,300	235,000	17,300	6.9	252,800	236,200	16,600	6.6	257,400	243,400	14,000	5.4
Tri-Cities MSA	72,700	65,800	6,900	9.5	72,800	64,700	8,100	11.1	71,800	65,600	6,200	8.6
Benton County‡	55,700	51,500	4,200	7.5	55,400	50,600	4,800	8.7	55,400	51,400	4,000	7.2
Franklin County‡	17,100	14,300	2,800	16.4	17,400	14,100	3,300	19.0	16,600	14,300	2,300	13.9
Vancouver PMSA	128,500	120,700	7,800	6.1	128,700	120,700	8,000	6.2	128,100	120,300	7,800	6.1
Yakima MSA	95,500	81,700	13,800	14.5	94,700	79,700	15,000	15.8	95,800	82,400	13,400	14.0
Adams	7,590	6,230	1,360	17.9	7,510	5,990	1,520	20.2	6,370	5,520	850	13.3
Asotin	10,040	9,350	690	6.9	9,690	9,130	560	5.8	9,240	8,760	480	5.2
Clallam	23,630	21,420	2,210	9.4	24,110	21,520	2,590	10.7	25,020	22,460	2,560	10.2
Columbia	1,440	1,190	250	17.4	1,410	1,170	240	17.0	1,710	1,470	240	14.0
Cowlitz	38,920	35,840	3,080	7.9	39,210	35,630	3,580	9.1	39,810	36,140	3,670	9.2
Ferry	3,280	2,860	420	12.8	3,160	2,850	310	9.8	3,290	2,890	400	12.2
Garfield	940	890	50	5.3	950	860	90	9.5	1,020	950	70	6.9
Grant	25,710	22,260	3,450	13.4	25,560	21,930	3,630	14.2	25,230	22,090	3,140	12.4
Grays Harbor	28,490	25,210	3,280	11.5	29,140	25,010	4,130	14.2	27,210	23,700	3,510	12.9
Island	21,350	20,350	1,000	4.7	21,460	20,420	1,040	4.8	21,430	20,440	990	4.6
Jefferson	8,470	7,880	590	7.0	8,600	7,920	680	7.9	8,890	8,300	590	6.6
Kittitas	12,840	11,280	1,560	12.1	12,690	11,270	1,420	11.2	13,090	11,900	1,190	9.1
Klickitat	7,600	6,190	1,410	18.6	7,540	6,150	1,390	18.4	7,710	6,350	1,360	17.6
Lewis	24,340	21,440	2,900	11.9	25,590	22,110	3,480	13.6	26,420	22,950	3,470	13.1
Lincoln	4,140	3,840	300	7.2	3,970	3,670	300	7.6	4,200	3,980	220	5.2
Mason	14,720	13,390	1,330	9.0	14,830	13,450	1,380	9.3	14,070	12,870	1,200	8.5
Okanogan	17,340	14,640	2,700	15.6	17,190	14,370	2,820	16.4	16,630	14,370	2,260	13.6
Pacific	7,230	6,430	800	11.1	7,700	6,610	1,090	14.2	7,690	6,740	950	12.4
Pend Oreille	3,320	2,750	570	17.2	3,340	2,740	600	18.0	3,530	2,970	560	15.9
San Juan	5,430	5,190	240	4.4	5,490	5,220	270	4.9	5,430	5,180	250	4.6
Skagit	40,070	36,140	3,930	9.8	40,300	35,980	4,320	10.7	38,750	35,130	3,620	9.3
Skamania	2,260	1,690	570	25.2	2,210	1,630	580	26.2	2,440	1,800	640	26.2
Stevens	11,490	9,810	1,680	14.6	11,130	9,690	1,440	12.9	11,850	10,560	1,290	10.9
Wahkiakum	1,160	1,070	90	7.8	1,220	1,030	190	15.6	1,310	1,070	240	18.3
Walla Walla	23,710	21,450	2,260	9.5	23,180	20,930	2,250	9.7	23,730	21,610	2,120	8.9
Wenatchee Labor Area	42,450	37,810	4,640	10.9	42,560	37,570	4,990	11.7	41,550	37,320	4,230	10.2
Chelan County‡	28,320	25,070	3,250	11.5	28,410	24,910	3,500	12.3	27,600	24,740	2,860	10.4
Douglas County‡	14,140	12,750	1,390	9.8	14,150	12,660	1,490	10.5	13,950	12,580	1,370	9.8
Whitman	19,050	18,540	510	2.7	18,560	18,010	550	3.0	19,850	19,380	470	2.4

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

February 1991 Unemployment Rates
State of Washington = 6.7%



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary February Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Feb 91	Jan 91	Feb 90	Feb 91	Jan 91	Feb 90	Feb 91	Jan 91	Feb 90
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES[1]	210,185	$528.12	$532.07	$506.48	39.5	39.5	39.6	$13.37	$13.47	$12.79
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	31,325	$452.76	$436.16	$410.84	38.5	36.9	37.9	$11.76	$11.82	$10.84
Primary Metal Industries	9,903	$592.02	$594.14	$554.67	42.9	41.9	42.7	$13.80	$14.18	$12.99
Fabricated Metal Products	9,657	$521.88	$485.35	$478.38	40.9	37.8	40.2	$12.76	$12.84	$11.90
Machinery	19,863	$437.18	$428.97	$420.90	39.6	39.5	39.3	$11.04	$10.86	$10.71
Food and Kindred Products	23,787	$367.52	$367.56	$360.80	36.9	36.5	35.9	$9.96	$10.07	$10.05
Chemical and Allied Products	4,742	$664.56	$679.62	$659.03	42.6	41.9	42.3	$15.60	$16.22	$15.58
Transportation Equipment	56,972	$685.99	$711.71	$648.04	41.3	42.9	42.3	$16.61	$16.59	$15.32
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	84,457	$636.08	$634.28	$594.59	36.1	36.1	35.1	$17.62	$17.57	$16.94
Wholesale and Retail Trade (Includes eating and drinking establishments)	451,196	$284.89	$279.57	$271.80	30.6	29.9	30.0	$9.31	$9.35	$9.06

[1]Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market & Economic Analysis Branch

Washington State Annual Averages
Resident Labor Force and Employment by Labor Area

Benchmark: March 1990

	1990				1989				1988			
	Civilian Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unem-ployment Rate	Civilian Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unem-ployment Rate	Civilian Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unem-ployment	Unem-ployment Rate
Washington State Total	2,503,000	2,381,000	122,000	4.9	2,451,000	2,300,000	151,000	6.2	2,316,000	2,173,000	143,000	6.2
Bellingham MSA	68,200	64,900	3,300	4.8	64,600	60,300	4,300	6.7	60,000	55,700	4,300	7.2
Bremerton MSA	83,000	79,500	3,500	4.2	79,900	75,600	4,300	5.4	76,400	72,300	4,100	5.4
Olympia MSA	83,500	79,400	4,100	4.9	79,600	74,600	5,000	6.3	75,200	70,500	4,700	6.3
Seattle PMSA	1,125,800	1,086,600	39,200	3.5	1,105,400	1,054,800	50,600	4.6	1,033,700	983,700	50,000	4.8
King County	888,400	858,500	29,900	3.4	872,700	833,400	39,300	4.5	815,700	777,200	38,500	4.7
Snohomish County	237,400	228,100	9,300	3.9	232,700	221,400	11,300	4.9	217,900	206,500	11,400	5.2
Spokane MSA	171,100	162,000	9,100	5.3	169,500	158,500	11,000	6.5	164,700	154,500	10,200	6.2
Tacoma PMSA	254,200	242,000	12,200	4.8	251,700	235,800	15,900	6.3	243,500	228,200	15,300	6.3
Tri-Cities MSA	74,600	69,500	5,100	6.8	72,400	66,100	6,300	8.7	68,400	62,600	5,800	8.5
Benton County	57,800	54,400	3,400	5.9	56,000	51,700	4,300	7.7	53,200	49,000	4,200	7.9
Franklin County	16,900	15,100	1,800	10.7	16,300	14,300	2,000	12.3	15,200	13,600	1,600	10.5
Vancouver PMSA	128,200	121,900	6,300	4.9	122,200	115,000	7,200	5.9	115,400	108,800	6,600	5.7
Yakima MSA	101,500	91,600	9,900	9.8	98,800	87,000	11,800	11.9	93,500	83,400	10,100	10.8
Adams	7,290	6,510	780	10.7	6,890	6,060	830	12.0	6,590	5,860	730	11.1
Asotin	9,330	8,950	380	4.1	9,140	8,670	470	5.1	9,010	8,500	510	5.7
Clallam	24,570	22,840	1,730	7.0	24,450	22,370	2,080	8.5	23,160	21,270	1,890	8.2
Columbia	1,810	1,640	170	9.4	1,740	1,500	240	13.8	1,930	1,670	260	13.5
Cowlitz	38,940	36,240	2,700	6.9	38,240	35,110	3,130	8.2	35,830	33,170	2,660	7.4
Ferry	3,280	3,000	280	8.5	3,220	2,850	370	11.5	2,870	2,540	330	11.5
Garfield	1,000	960	40	4.0	980	930	50	5.1	1,030	980	50	4.9
Grant	26,960	24,720	2,240	8.3	26,990	24,260	2,730	10.1	24,250	21,770	2,480	10.2
Grays Harbor	26,380	23,990	2,390	9.1	26,940	24,160	2,780	10.3	25,980	23,520	2,460	9.5
Island	21,670	20,880	790	3.6	20,720	19,760	960	4.6	19,410	18,490	920	4.7
Jefferson	9,110	8,670	440	4.8	8,440	7,950	490	5.8	8,270	7,780	490	5.9
Kittitas	12,280	11,400	880	7.2	12,050	10,960	1,090	9.0	11,590	10,450	1,140	9.8
Klickitat	7,870	6,970	900	11.4	7,910	6,840	1,070	13.5	7,710	6,730	980	12.7
Lewis	25,390	23,380	2,010	7.9	25,640	23,370	2,270	8.9	24,520	22,330	2,190	8.9
Lincoln	4,320	4,150	170	3.9	4,230	4,030	200	4.7	4,270	4,060	210	4.9
Mason	14,600	13,700	900	6.2	14,150	13,110	1,040	7.3	13,720	12,750	970	7.1
Okanogan	17,850	16,080	1,770	9.9	17,580	15,490	2,090	11.9	16,230	14,260	1,970	12.1
Pacific	7,720	7,100	620	8.0	7,420	6,690	730	9.8	7,220	6,590	630	8.7
Pend Oreille	3,350	2,930	420	12.5	4,840	4,380	460	9.5	3,800	3,380	420	11.1
San Juan	6,170	6,010	160	2.6	5,740	5,510	230	4.0	5,450	5,210	240	4.4
Skagit	40,070	37,390	2,680	6.7	37,790	34,620	3,170	8.4	34,630	31,610	3,020	8.7
Skamania	2,190	1,840	350	16.0	2,340	1,910	430	18.4	2,350	1,950	400	17.0
Stevens	11,570	10,500	1,070	9.2	11,870	10,750	1,120	9.4	11,680	10,670	1,010	8.6
Wahkiakum	1,230	1,120	110	8.9	1,220	1,120	100	8.2	1,220	1,120	100	8.2
Walla Walla	23,580	22,220	1,360	5.8	23,660	21,970	1,690	7.1	23,300	21,630	1,670	7.2
Wenatchee Labor Area	45,410	41,930	3,480	7.7	43,990	39,750	4,240	9.6	40,850	37,120	3,730	9.1
Chelan County	30,210	27,790	2,420	8.0	29,360	26,350	3,010	10.3	27,360	24,610	2,750	10.1
Douglas County	15,190	14,130	1,060	7.0	14,640	13,400	1,240	8.5	13,490	12,510	980	7.3
Whitman	18,860	18,450	410	2.2	18,770	18,260	510	2.7	18,470	17,940	530	2.9

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Data were revised using new BLS methodolgy introduced in January 1989.
Note: Detail may not add or divide due to rounding.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market & Economic Analysis Branch

Resident Civilian Labor Force and Employment in Washington State[1]

Benchmark: March 1990

	Annual Average	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1990[2]													
Civilian Labor Force	2,503,000	2,480,000	2,514,000	2,520,000	2,507,500	2,495,900	2,536,400	2,532,400	2,515,200	2,452,900	2,470,200	2,478,100	2,533,500
Total Employment	2,381,000	2,328,400	2,362,700	2,389,000	2,389,800	2,383,400	2,430,800	2,420,400	2,409,200	2,355,800	2,361,800	2,349,800	2,391,000
Total Unemployment	122,000	151,600	151,300	131,000	117,700	112,500	105,600	112,000	106,000	97,100	108,400	128,300	142,500
Percent of Labor Force	4.9	6.1	6.0	5.2	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.4	5.2	5.6
1989[2]													
Civilian Labor Force	2,451,000	2,373,100	2,370,200	2,405,600	2,437,100	2,482,500	2,475,000	2,471,600	2,487,400	2,452,500	2,476,800	2,468,100	2,512,300
Total Employment	2,300,000	2,203,300	2,199,000	2,240,900	2,282,400	2,333,900	2,323,800	2,317,900	2,341,100	2,313,500	2,344,100	2,328,300	2,371,900
Total Unemployment	151,000	169,800	171,200	164,700	154,700	148,600	151,200	153,700	146,300	139,000	132,700	139,800	140,400
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	7.2	7.2	6.8	6.3	6.0	6.1	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.6
1988[2]													
Civilian Labor Force	2,316,000	2,266,300	2,280,600	2,280,000	2,280,600	2,292,000	2,295,100	2,339,300	2,328,900	2,338,000	2,370,900	2,348,600	2,371,700
Total Employment	2,173,000	2,099,900	2,116,100	2,122,800	2,141,800	2,157,100	2,154,600	2,195,100	2,190,200	2,203,800	2,244,900	2,214,300	2,235,400
Total Unemployment	143,000	166,400	164,500	157,200	138,800	134,900	140,500	144,200	138,700	134,200	126,000	134,300	136,300
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.7
1987													
Civilian Labor Force	2,258,000	2,199,000	2,184,600	2,211,800	2,204,900	2,238,800	2,278,800	2,310,700	2,307,400	2,282,500	2,299,500	2,279,800	2,298,300
Total Employment	2,087,000	1,989,700	1,974,400	2,012,100	2,022,700	2,068,700	2,119,500	2,149,000	2,153,800	2,134,100	2,148,900	2,128,300	2,142,900
Total Unemployment	171,000	209,300	210,200	199,700	182,200	170,100	159,300	161,700	153,600	148,400	150,600	151,500	155,400
Percent of Labor Force	7.6	9.5	9.6	9.0	8.3	7.6	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.8
1986													
Civilian Labor Force	2,198,000	2,109,900	2,130,100	2,162,400	2,183,000	2,197,700	2,218,500	2,303,900	2,259,900	2,213,000	2,217,500	2,191,400	2,188,600
Total Employment	2,018,000	1,923,800	1,930,700	1,966,000	2,000,700	2,027,500	2,044,900	2,110,000	2,084,800	2,057,600	2,053,500	2,011,700	2,004,700
Total Unemployment	180,000	186,100	199,400	196,400	182,300	170,200	173,600	193,900	175,100	155,400	164,000	179,700	183,900
Percent of Labor Force	8.2	8.8	9.4	9.1	8.4	7.7	7.8	8.4	7.7	7.0	7.4	8.2	8.4
1985													
Civilian Labor Force	2,091,000	2,039,600	2,042,100	2,049,400	2,069,800	2,086,900	2,100,500	2,143,200	2,134,800	2,105,000	2,118,300	2,109,000	2,093,400
Total Employment	1,921,000	1,839,700	1,848,300	1,866,900	1,900,600	1,916,500	1,926,800	1,970,900	1,974,400	1,955,700	1,969,400	1,952,600	1,930,200
Total Unemployment	170,000	199,900	193,800	182,500	169,200	170,400	173,700	172,300	160,400	149,300	148,900	156,400	163,200
Percent of Labor Force	8.1	9.8	9.5	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.8
1984													
Civilian Labor Force	2,051,000	2,022,100	2,036,800	2,041,100	2,033,700	2,041,700	2,070,700	2,109,100	2,084,200	2,048,200	2,055,400	2,032,400	2,036,600
Total Employment	1,857,000	1,786,700	1,807,500	1,824,900	1,831,700	1,849,500	1,879,700	1,916,300	1,909,200	1,880,100	1,886,300	1,857,300	1,854,900
Total Unemployment	194,000	235,400	229,300	216,200	202,000	192,200	191,000	192,800	175,000	168,100	169,100	175,100	181,700
Percent of Labor Force	9.5	11.6	11.3	10.6	9.9	9.4	9.2	9.1	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.9
1983													
Civilian Labor Force	2,069,000	2,022,100	2,029,700	2,040,900	2,046,100	2,049,100	2,116,100	2,138,200	2,111,600	2,087,100	2,085,400	2,061,300	2,040,400
Total Employment	1,838,000	1,752,200	1,762,400	1,782,000	1,799,900	1,821,200	1,872,800	1,903,100	1,894,200	1,887,600	1,885,500	1,860,300	1,834,800
Total Unemployment	231,000	269,900	267,300	258,900	246,200	227,900	243,300	235,100	217,400	199,500	199,900	201,000	205,600
Percent of Labor Force	11.2	13.3	13.2	12.7	12.0	11.1	11.5	11.0	10.3	9.6	9.6	9.8	10.1

[1] Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Monthly data for all years were revised using new Bureau of Labor Statistics methodology introduced in January 1989.

[2] Data for 1988, 1989, and 1990 were revised in March 1991 incorporating updated information on industry employment.

Note: Detail may not add or divide due to rounding.

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